

FERTILITY RATES FOR GIRLS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER

Objective

By 1990, there should be almost no unintended births to girls 14 years of age and under. (Note: The assumption is made that all births to this age group are unintended.)

Explanatory Notes

For this report, the fertility rate is calculated as the number of resident live births to girls ages 14 or younger per 1,000 female population ages 10-14.

Findings

In 1990, 402 live births occurred to girls aged 14 and younger. North Carolina did not meet the objective of zero births, so it is impossible for the U.S. have achieved this objective. In recent years, the rate of births to very young girls has risen instead of falling, so that the goal of zero seems implausible without major changes in attitudes and behaviors.

Related National Objectives for the Year 2000

- o Reduce pregnancies among girls aged 17 and younger to no more than 50 per 1,000 adolescents.
- o Reduce to no more than 30 percent the proportion of all pregnancies that are unintended.
- o Reduce to no more than 40 percent the proportion of all pregnancies among black women that are unintended.
- o Reduce the proportion of adolescents who have engaged in sexual intercourse to no more than 15 percent by age 15 and no more than 40 percent by age 17.
- o Increase to at least 40 percent the proportion of ever sexually active adolescents ages 17 and younger who have abstained from sexual activity for the previous three months.
- o Increase to at least 90 percent the proportion of sexually active, unmarried people aged 19 and younger who use contraception, especially combined method contraception that both effectively prevents pregnancy and provides barrier protection against disease.
- o Increase the effectiveness with which family planning methods are used, as measured by a decrease to no more than five percent in the proportion of couples experiencing pregnancy despite use of a contraceptive method.
- o Increase to at least 85 percent the proportion of people aged 10 through 18 who have discussed human sexuality, including values surrounding sexuality, with their parents and /or have received information through other parentally endorsed source, such as youth, school, or religious programs.
- o Increase to 90 percent the proportion of pregnancy counselors who offer positive, accurate information about adoption to their unmarried patients with unintended pregnancies.
- o Increase to at least 60 percent the proportion of primary care providers who provide age-appropriate preconception care and counseling.

Data Sources

North Carolina: State Center for Health and Environmental Statistics
United States: National Center for Health Statistics